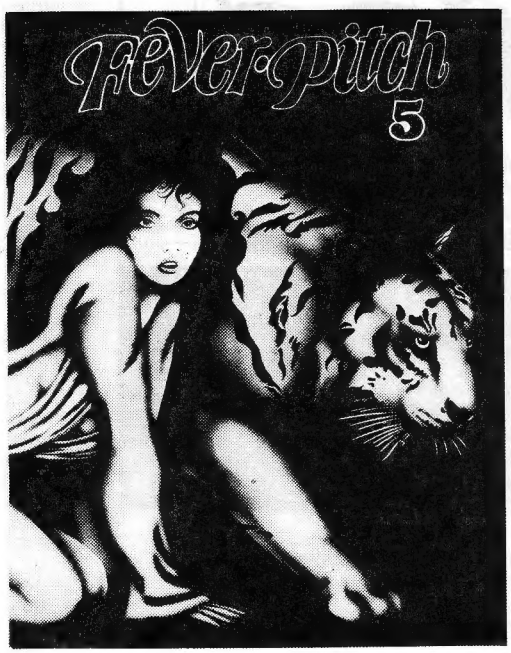
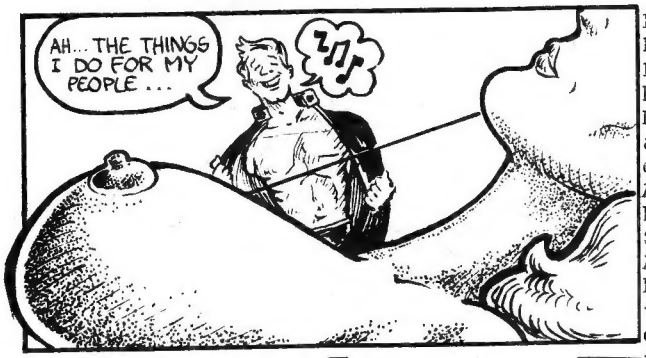
FIORILLA

McDERMOTT



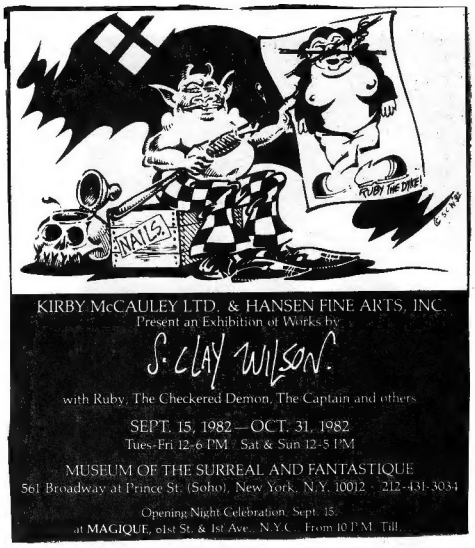
COMIX WORLD 207, October 15, 1982. © Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Subs: $11 for 48 in U.S.A. COMIX WAVE 11 is out. See cover on p. 2. My latest minis are: Mike Hill's SUBLIMINAL LOBOTOMY, Jane Oliver's PAGAN COMIX 1, Grass Green's HMM! 1, Geo Kochell's TOO TENSE TOONS 1, FRIED BRAINS 7 (Foster and Parsonavich), BABYFAT 28 (Green & others), TALES FROM THE INSIDE 6 and 7 by Garcia, and Parsonavich's STONER MAN 5 and 6. The minis are $5 a dozen this month or the usual 50¢/stamp each.* In Bruce Duncan's TELE-TIMES 29, Mike Hill and David Miller are interviewed. $2.50 from Bruce, Berkeley Inn, Rm 414, 2501 Haste, Berkeley, CA 94704.



THE AUDITION
HI!
YES?
OOOOH, REALLY?
YES, STEP IN HERE AND I'LL HELP YOU... CHANGE!
HERE, LET ME HELP YOU WITH THAT.
UHHH... OKAY, FINE...
DO YOU REALLY THINK MR. DEVILLE WILL BE INTERESTED IN ME? I'VE NEVER BEEN IN A MOVIE BEFORE.
I'M HERE TO SEE ABOUT A PART IN ONE OF MR. DEVILLES NEW MOVIES.
I'M SURE HE'LL BE... INTERESTED IN YOU, HONEY...
OF COURSE, I THINK MR. DEVILLE WILL WANT TO GIVE YOU A TEST RIGHT AWAY!
...NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

FEVER PITCH 5 is $4 from Brad Foster, 4109 Pleasant Run, Irving, TX 75062. It's hot as you can see from the Holman, Miller, and Heike artwork around you. Foster did the wraparound cover.* Also from Foster, a 16 page hard-core comic, RUDE-TOONS. $3 pp. YOU MUST INCLUDE AN AGE STATEMENT for Foster's books. Adults only. He has two issues of GOODIES at $1 each pp.* Steve Willis has three new ones out: PACEMAKER DEFECT ($1 pp), GIMMIE COMICS 1 (not to be confused with Leonard Rifas' GIMME), and an UNTITLED FOLIO. GIMMIE is 75¢ and the folio is $1.50. 1121 W. Jackson, Olympia, WA 98502. I'll run Steve's comments on the PX GUIDE next issue.* EVERYTHING MAN 5 is 25¢/stamp from Back Pocket, 1040 Aurora Av, St. Paul, MN 55104.* SPUD & ERNIE 2 is 25¢/stamp from Matt or Steve, 3557 Idaho Av,N Crystal, MN 55427.* NORDICC FUNNIES 1 is $2 pp from Kenny Moran (Cash or MO, no checks), 216-B Sherbrook St., Wpg., Man., Canada R3E 2B6.* EL VIBORA 32-33 (double summer issue) in from Spain. Info: write to J. M. Berengeur, Plaza Beatas 3, Barcelona, Spain.* CEREBUS 42 in your local store. See and meet Dave Sim at Comics & Comix, 2461 Telegraph in Berkeley, Oct 21, 1982.* DEPRAVED COMIX (truly named 32 page ug with 2 color cover) is $3 pp from New Wave Publications, POB 1187, Woodhaven, N Y 11421. Some great panels. Not for the squeamish.* I'll be at CREATION CON, Oct 30-31 at the CATHEDRAL HILL HOTEL in San Francisco (Van Ness & Geary.

C.G.


NAILS
RUBY THE DIME!
KIRBY McCAULEY LTD. & HANSEN FINE ARTS, INC.
Present an Exhibition of Works by
S. CLAY WILSON
with Ruby, The Checkered Demon, The Captain and others
SEPT. 15, 1982 — OCT. 31, 1982
Tues-Fri 12-6 PM / Sat & Sun 12-5 PM
MUSEUM OF THE SURREAL AND FANTASTIQUE
561 Broadway at Prince St. (Soho), New York, N.Y. 10012 / 212-431-3034
Opening Night Celebration, Sept. 15
at MAGIQUE, 61st St. & 1st Ave., N.Y.C., From 10 P.M. Till

THE OFFICIAL UNDERGROUND AND NEWAVE COMIX PRICE GUIDE.

A review by Richard Kay

Jay Kennedy has certainly put together the price guide that ug collectors have all been waiting for. The first impression is of a sturdy, well-bound and well-printed book; then one realizes that this handsome book will be uncomfortable to use because the print size has been reduced to the squint-or-magnify level. Convenient use is also impeded by a 20-page photo insert that awkwardly divides the main listings between PLAYSTOCKER #2 and #3. Better design would have placed the insert more functionally at the end of the main catalog.

These physical inconveniences are annoying but not crucial. The main issue is how good a guide this is to current prices for underground comics. Paging through, the initial impression was favorable. Really costly items were few: I counted only 173 priced over $25--less than 7% of the total. The most costly noted were $600 for Bode's DAS KAMPF and for Wilson's TWENTY DRAWINGS. But appearances are deceiving. When I to ed up what I have actually paid for 22 second-hand comix in the last 12 months, it emerged that the GUIDE prices were a whopping 30% higher! (Naturally, I allowed discounts off GUIDE price for less than mint condition.) Perhaps I have a shrewd nose for bargains, but nonetheless this does reflect the advertised prices of three major dealers, and therefore suggests that the GUIDE prices are inflated almost a third above the going market price. Whether this will in turn inflate asking prices remains to be seen, but by all means "Caveat emptor"!

Prices aside, the collector looks to a list such as this for guidance as to what is out there to be collected. Kennedy lists 2532 items, 209 of which are segregated as "ground-level comix." This constitutes a 150% increase over the 1000-plus titles listed in Wiener's 1979 CHECKLIST. Most of the new additions are newave minis, but strange to say, Kennedy omits some 75 items to be found in Wiener. Most of the items that Wiener had categorized as "miscellaneous" (books, magazines, fanzines), but Kennedy does not seem to have been systematic in his weeding and in his introduction offers no explanation of his principles. I would rather that he listed all underground (and groundlevel) collectibles in one single alphabetical series, and then indicated by annotation his view of each item's status, as he does now for the questionable items he includes. (Some fugitive items still have eluded hi, e.g. CATFISH SUPER DELUX COMIX #1, 1970.)

Wiener's work still remains valuable for its attempt to provide cover illustrations for all undergrounds; Kennedy's selection of covers is chiefly decorative, althought the ones scattered throughout the text of the catalog are useful for finding your way through the alphabet without a magnifying glass.

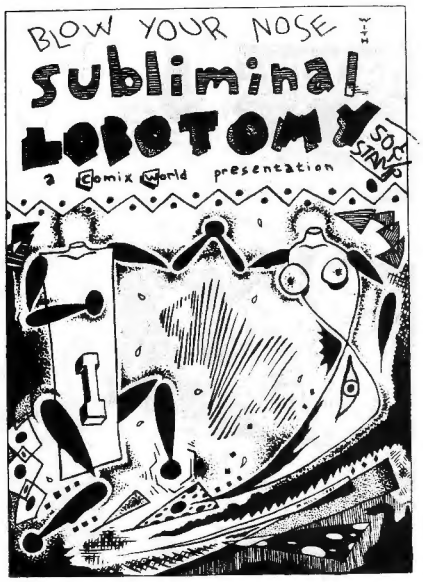
The feature articles are, like the illustrations, a pleasant bonus. In future, it would be valuable to include a feature on earlier checklists, with some indication of their historic function and continuing usefulness: e.g., ARTSY-FARTSY FUNNIES, the checklists of Kirch, Loudin, Wiener, and the incomparable resource that is COMIX WORLD #1-200.

The best I've saved for last. The greatest value of this book lies in its careful descriptions, and particularly in its detailed indications of the distinctive differences between various printings of the same item. This service alone should make it indispensable for dealers and collectors; the latter will also be well served by the thorough analysis of each issue's artists, whose complete works can be ascertained via the indices. Jay Kennedy deserves our thanks for this considerable advance beyond earlier bibliographies and our encouragement to improve successive issues of the PRICE GUIDE.

Richard Kay is a Professor of History. He teaches at the University of Kansas in Lawrence.

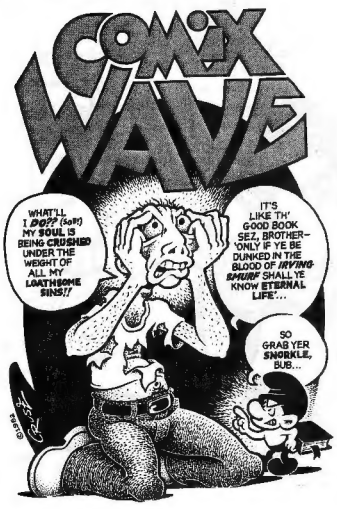
". . . blown away by the amount of detail in each listing. Although sometimes I think there is a bit too much, such as his listing all the color stocks on minis like the CW line. I might do a mini and with a print run of 100 get 100 different color stocks to see how he handles that! I can't really say how it is as a price-guide, I never really looked at any prices, but as a reference book, it is outstanding! And the artist index is worth its weight in gold, checking back to see what all my favorites have been involved in. Haven't had much time to really track down everyone, but already some surprises, like finding out Jane Oliver pubbed a title called SLICK COMIX in '74. . . . -Brad Foster.

"The GUIDE is generally a very useful reference work. Reflecting its original intent, its strength is as an underground guide, not as a price guide. The prices are too high on a few, just right on a few more, but low to very low on most. This is clearly the weakest aspect of the book. Furthermore, I feel that future editions should draw distinctions between the underground and the newave publications and separate them into two different sections. While the two areas do overlap a bit, they are still markedly different in format, content, quality and collectibility. Since most of the underground collectors I know distain the newaves, save for a few artists, the GUIDE would become a much more useful tool for collecting if this distinction were made." -Bruce Semans 9/23



"...Although not complete, it supplies much needed bibliographical information on ugs. It reminded me of your first list in Estren's HISTORY OF UNDERGROUND COMICS. What an aid that list became. Later it was replaced by Shelby Kirch's CHECKLIST. A good adjunct bibliography was in ARTSY FARTSY FUNNIES. Then came THE CHECKLIST OF UNDERGROUND COMIX from Archival Press, I believe. A great list on piss-poor paper with many useful/useless photographs of UG comic covers. Useful because there were so many; useless because the photographs were often so poor. And now we have the Kennedy Guide. (Wait a minute, how could I forget Don Fiene's excellent R. CRUMB CHECKLIST OF WORK AND CRITICISM: WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SUPPLEMENT AND A FULL SET OF INDEXES? Which is also the winner in the longest title category. This is truly a benchmark in underground comix bibliography.) My only real criticism of the UNDERGROUND PRICE GUIDE is the lack of more cover photos. Especially of the rarer comix. Nevermind, it is a welcome reference tool and has filled in several gaps for me." -Jack Webb 9-29

"As a person who is actually LISTED in the guide (Bless, you, Jay!), what can I say? The Guide is a good listing of artists and books. The fact that newave books are listed is an accomplishment. My question is, should newave comix be considered a separate comix genre, or a second generation underground?" -Steve Scharff 9-28


COMIX WAVE
WHAT'LL I DO?? (SOB) MY SOUL IS BEING CRUSHED UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ALL MY LOATHSOME SINS!!
IT'S LIKE TH' GOOD BOOK SEZ, BROTHER- ONLY IF YE BE DUNKED IN THE BLOOD OF MYUNG SHRUF SHALL YE KNOW ETERNAL LIFE...
SO GRAB YER SNORKLE, BUB...

COMIX WAVE 11. $1.50 pp from CW